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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ENDURA S.p.A.** [IT/IT]; Viale Pietramellara, 5, I-40125 BOLOGNA (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BORZATTA, Valerio** [IT/IT]; Via Bellettini, 20, I-40127 BOLOGNA (IT). **CAPPARELLA, Elisa** [IT/IT]; Via Santucci, 17, I-48100 RAVENNA (IT). **GOBBI, Carlotta** [IT/IT]; Via Ravegnana, 42, I-48100 RAVENNA (IT). **POLUZZI, Elisa** [IT/IT]; Via Matteotti, 16, I-40012 CALDERARA DI RENO (IT).

(74) Agent: **GERVASI, Gemma; NOTARBARTOLO & GERVASI S.p.A.**, Corso di Porta Vittoria 9, I-20122 MILAN (IT).

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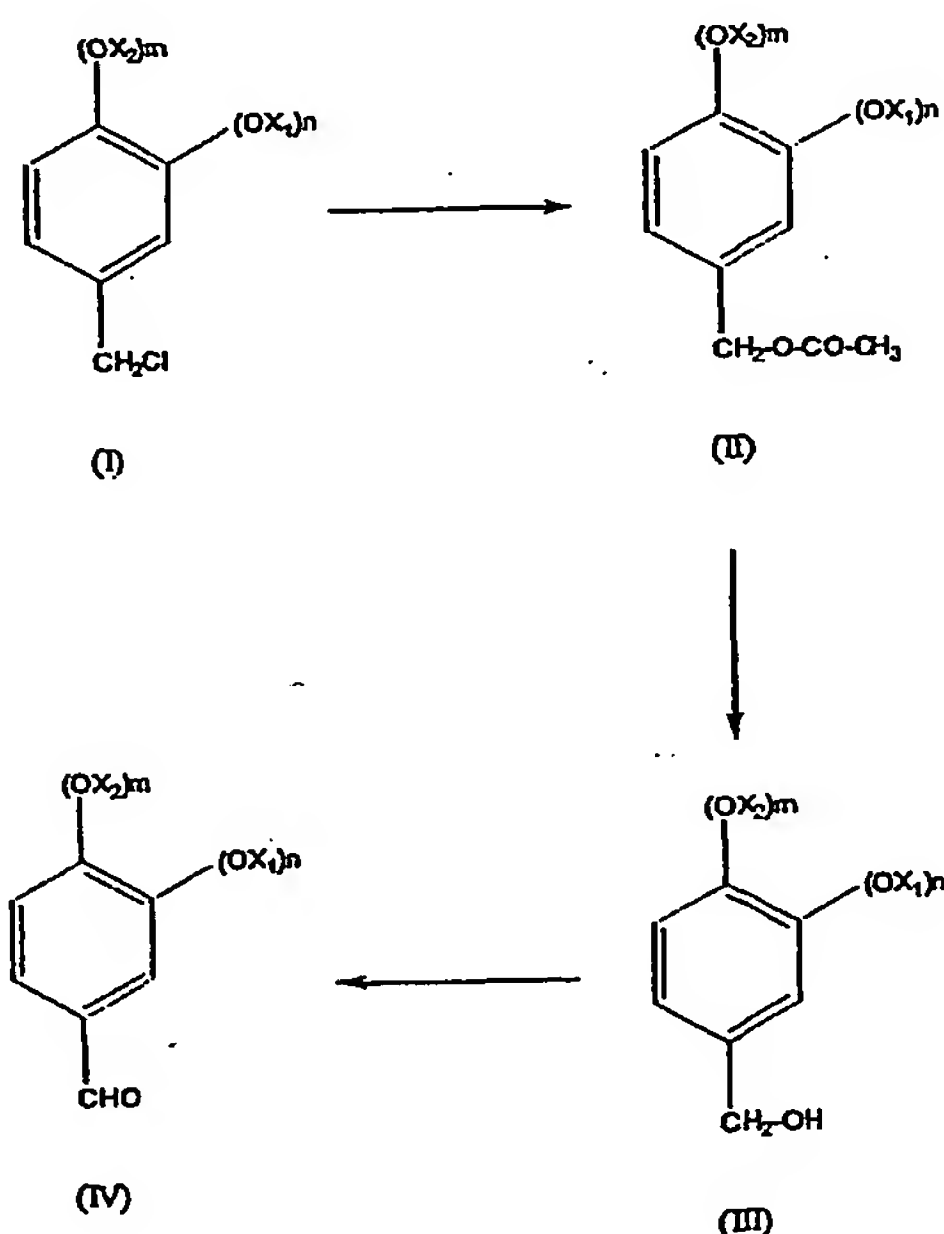
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR SYNTHESISING HELIOTROPINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES



(57) Abstract: A new high-yield, easily industrialized process for synthesising compounds of formula (IV), in which X_1 and X_2 , the same or different, are linear or branched C1-C8 alkyls, n and m are 0, 1 or 2, with the proviso that n and m are not simultaneously 0; or $(OX_1)_n$ and $(OX_2)_m$ taken together form an O-T-O group where T is chosen from $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$. The process comprises treating a chloromethyl derivative (I) with an alkaline acetate to form the intermediate acetyl derivative (II); the intermediate (II) is hydrolysed to form the alcohol (III); the alcohol (III) is then oxidised in the presence of air and catalysts to obtain the desired derivative (IV). The process runs its course within a short period of time, with high yields and high selectivity; in addition, the process does not require purification and separation of the intermediates and can therefore be favourably conducted in a single batch.